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Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"May I ask whether the Government are in a position to give the reasons for this absolute non-import of rice during 1933–34 till now and whether those reasons are temporary only or permanent?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"I cannot say."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"May I know the reasons for the non-import so far?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"I cannot give the reasons off-hand."

Local Self-Government

Legislative proposals for the abolition of taluk boards.

*279 Q.—Mr. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHOUDARI: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government contemplate bringing in a Bill for the abolition of taluk boards; and

(b) if so, when the Bill is likely to be introduced?

A.—(a) & (b) The Government are examining the question of the steps to be taken to meet the situation created by the unsatisfactory finances of many of the taluk boards. It is too early to say whether any legislation will be necessary and, if so, what form it would take.

Mr. V. T. ARASU:—"May I know if there is any proposal to appoint an officer or officers to investigate into this question?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"I do not think there is any such proposal."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"May I know if there is any proposal to appoint an assistant to the Inspector of Local Boards to help him to conduct an enquiry into this question?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"No, Sir. The Government have not completed the examination of this question at all."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Is it the idea of the Government that those taluk boards which are in an unsatisfactory condition should be abolished and not dealt with in any other way?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI—"Government are still considering the best method of improving the financial condition of the local boards."

Khan Bahadur MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB Bahadur:—"May I ask whether there is any proposal to abolish the district boards?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"I cannot say that there is any definite proposal at present."

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Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—" May I know if the Government have any idea of helping the taluk boards financially or if they are going to allow them to remain in a state of suspended animation? "

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" I do not think the Government will be in a position to help the taluk boards financially."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—" Will the hon. Minister please state the proportion of the existing taluk boards that are in a financially sound position? "

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" Sir, 86 taluk boards have a permanent deficit, and about 30 of them have just enough money to pay their establishment out of a total of 213."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar:—" May I ask whether in some of the taluk boards the pay of very many employees is in arrears for several months together? "

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" I believe so."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—" Will the hon. the Chief Minister please say what advice or proposal the Government have placed before these taluk boards to enable them to carry on their normal work? "

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" It has not been possible to do anything definite. The matter is still under consideration."

Grants, if any, paid from the Road Development Fund on account of improvements to roads.

* 280 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. Shetty: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any grants have been paid from the Road Development Fund for the opening or improvement of roads in any district of this Presidency; and

(*b*) if so, what amount has been paid and for which districts?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) No grant has been paid from the Road Development Fund for the opening of new roads. A statement [a] showing the grants already disbursed or sanctioned for improvements to roads is appended.

Mr. A. B. Shetty:—" May I ask whether the petrol-tax collected from each district is not paid to the Road Development Fund? "

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" A portion of the tax so collected is paid to the provinces."

Mr. A. B. Shetty:—" May I know why only four districts have received grants from this fund, when every district is contributing to the Road Development Fund? "

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" It was done this year, but it may not be economical to distribute this grant to all the districts."

[a] Printed as Appendix I on page 394 infra.